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News Release

Libraries Awarded Grants for Key Projects

The Colorado State Library today announced grants to 10 school, public and academic libraries for innovative projects designed to improve library services and lifelong learning.

The proposals are funded through the federal Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) allocation to the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado State Library.

This year's grants total over \$400,000. All grants addressed a goal in the long-range plan that Colorado libraries will provide services to support educational achievement and lifelong learning of Colorado residents, people with disabilities, ethnic populations, institutional residents, and those underserved by libraries.

Awards were made to:

- The Northwest Colorado Board of Cooperative Educational Services (Northwest BOCES)—Learning Everywhere with Alternatives to Print Project, \$8,905. To meet Colorado Department of Education requirements, Northwest BOCES will make alternate format books available to Individualized Education Plan (IEP) students at the beginning of the school year. Portable reading devices will be purchased to download titles. To meet other student interests and learning needs, additional audio book titles will be purchased for the school library.

- Delta County Libraries—Delta County Libraries' Online Resources Education Program, \$18,868. Partnering with the Colorado Workforce Center at Delta, the Family Literacy and Resource Program, North Fork Community Montessori School and the Hotchkiss K-8 School, Delta County Libraries will subscribe to online databases that meet current needs of each agency. Recognizing their role as a community agency, the libraries will conduct database training workshops for school teachers and family literacy teachers. DCL librarians will also conduct job-related computer skills classes and ESL (English for Speakers of other Languages) classes for their patrons.
- Mesa County Public Library District—Mesa County Libraries Adult Language Learning Project, \$19,200. Mesa County Libraries Literacy Center will purchase eight computer workstations to expand services in their language learning lab. An additional eight laptops will be used for literacy instruction at the Mesa County Jail and for tutoring ESL students enrolled in Mesa State College's developmental English class.
- Denver Public Schools Educational Resource Services Department—Center for Early Education Initial Library Development, \$16,500. The Center for Early Education in Denver Public Schools will be receiving funds to purchase books for their new library. Recognizing the importance of the school library in meeting the literacy needs of its students (ages 3 to 5) the school will recruit the Parent Teacher Association to develop a volunteer base for the library.
- Auraria Library—A Fourth Grade Colorado Social Studies Curriculum Development Project: Using Images, Oral Histories and Artifacts from the Hispanic Experience, \$33,500. The project, involving five organizations, will collaborate to create, disseminate and assess standards-aligned fourth grade Colorado social studies content. The goals are to enable teachers to use existing resources to meet learning outcomes; and for libraries to produce new print and digital content emphasizing Hispanics in Colorado. Two-day professional development workshops will be held in Denver for 48 teachers representing school districts from across the state.
- Southern Peaks Public Library—San Luis Valley Libraries Technology Learning Project, \$50,171. Building on a successful LSTA-funded collaboration from the previous year, this project

will again offer technology training, information literacy, resources and improved access to technology in the impoverished areas of the San Luis Valley. New laptops and personal computers will be purchased for libraries not included in last year's grant. A part-time bilingual technology trainer will be hired to teach computer classes in the Valley.

- Marmot Library Consortium—Marmot & Prospector: Sharing Library Resources Across the Divide, \$225,984. Funding will allow the loading of Marmot library holdings into the Prospector union catalog, which will expand access to resources for library customers statewide and improve efficiency for library staff. Nineteen separate member library systems (11 public library districts, four school districts and four colleges) located on the Western Slope will benefit from this project. This union catalog will provide the infrastructure for patron-initiated interlibrary loan requests, enhance connections between Colorado libraries and improve services to almost 350,000 residents.
- Durango Public Library—Internet Access for Low-Vision Individuals in the Durango Area, \$2,675. This project will allow patrons with low vision to gain access to the Internet and word processing software at the Durango Public Library. With the purchase of a new personal computer, a large screen monitor and ZoomText software, the library will become the only site in the Durango area where low-vision individuals can access these services independently.
- Denver Public Library—Free to Learn: Your Life, Your Community, Your Library, \$19,942. This project will develop targeted services for female ex-offenders. Trained library staff and volunteers will work one-on-one with recently released women to develop the skills needed to support and enrich their lives outside prison. Denver Public Library will offer individually tailored technology training geared to assist participants in getting work, retaining their jobs and developing skills that may lead to career advancement.
- Elbert County Library District—Remote Service Outlet in the Singing Hills Area, \$10,456. Elbert County Library District, in partnership with the Elizabeth Fire Protection District, will add a small service outlet available to patrons in the currently underserved northwestern part of the county. A small, popular reading collection and location to pick up and return materials

placed on hold through the library's online catalog will be located in the Singing Hills Fire Station. The outlet will be staffed two days per week and a book drop will be located outside of the Fire Station for returns during the week.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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